



NEWS

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Open Burning Season Ends for Flood Debris Open Burning Season for Double Cropping Stubble to Begin

The open burning season for fires set to dispose of vegetation lying or growing in natural channels or flood control channels and the extended wildlife management open burning season ended Wednesday, May 31, 2000, and the open burning season for double cropping stubble will began Thursday, June 1, according to Ellen Garvey, Air Pollution Control Officer for the Bay Area Air Quality Management District.

The double cropping stubble open burn season applies to agricultural fires set to dispose of grain stubble from land where both grain and vegetable crops are harvested during the same calendar year and runs from June 1 through the end of August. These fires must be set or allowed by the public fire official having jurisdiction and must be deemed necessary to remove the grain stubble and straw before a field vegetable crop can be planted. Also, no fires shall take place before 10:00 a.m., and all material to be burned must be free of visible surface moisture.

Open burning has been regulated in the Bay Area since 1957 because of its considerable contribution to air pollution. While backyard burning of leaves, trash, grass cuttings and prunings has been prohibited in the Bay Area since 1970, certain fires for agricultural purposes, flood control, fire training and the prevention of fire hazards are exempted from District regulations for specified periods throughout the year.

Although certain fires are allowed during the appropriate burn season, each day of the year is designated as either a BURN or a NO BURN day. On days when air pollution caused by open burning would be minimized by favorable weather conditions, the Air District designates it a BURN day.

Allowed fires can only take place on a BURN day. This means that even though a burn season may be in effect, the party seeking open burn authorization must check with the Air District for daily burn status prior to burning. BURN/NO BURN days are forecasted by 3 p.m. on the District's toll-free number **1-800-HELP-AIR** for the following day.

Open burning seasons apply to the entire Bay Area, including Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Napa, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, southwestern Solano and southern Sonoma counties.

Bay Area residents may request a brochure about the District's open burning regulation by writing the Public Information Office at 939 Ellis Street, San Francisco, CA 94109, or by calling 415-749-4900. To register complaints about illegal burning or other odor problems, call the District's 24-hour complaint line at 1-800-334-ODOR.

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